

Bowie Spotlight

The Official Newsletter of the City of Bowie

September - October 2013

Star Spangled Celebration Coming to Bowie

As the War of 1812 commemorations swirl over the rest of the country and Canada...we're not falling behind in Bowie!

The War marched into Prince George's County, and likely very close to, if not through, Bowie in the hot summer of 1814. It would seem that local residents that year enjoyed the same conditions we did over this past summer! But no cannon balls flew over Belair Mansion, no vessels steamed up this far north on the Patuxent. How did it impact this area? It can honestly be said that the residents of this area – then known as Collington – were surely quaking in their boots. Especially the residents of Belair. Over and above the concern for safety here, was the concern for the safety of the Ogle house in Annapolis, and its residents. A number of Henrietta Hill Ogle's slaves escaped from family-owned Annapolis properties to seek freedom on Tangier Island offered by the British. The infamous Battle of Bladensburg – “The Bladensburg Races” – took place within less than a mile of Bostwick – home of members of Ogle relatives, the Lowndes family. The residents of Riversdale, nearby, were very close friends. As the British marched into D.C. and burned the White House – the mistress of the Octagon House, Anne Ogle Tayloe, watched from her windows. She was the granddaughter of Samuel and Anne Tasker Ogle, and the daughter of Henrietta Hill Ogle. Our story here is one not of bombs bursting in air, but family terror over the possibility of that happening – and undoubtedly strong concern for the well-being of family, friends and property.

In the coming year, the City Museums will sponsor a number of commemorative events and programs – exhibits, living history, dance recitals, foodways programs, and much more. We hope you'll join us in 2014 in discovering the story of a young America's journey into “adulthood.”

If you'd like to get an early start in the commemoration – fly your very own 1812-era 15-star American flag! They are available at the Belair Mansion Gift Shop for \$20 each. The shop is open Tuesday through Sunday, 12 - 4 p.m. Watch the City website, www.cityofbowie.org, for all our exciting programs, and celebrate our country's coming of age! For more information, please contact the Museums Office at 301-809-3089 or museums@cityofbowie.org.

Salute to America Concert

The City's Sunday Sunset Concert Series at the Robert V. Setera Amphitheater in Allen Pond Park will conclude with a very special concert on **Sunday, September 1, 2013** from 7 – 8 p.m. The Salute to America Concert will feature the United States Naval Academy Wind Ensemble. We will honor and salute members of the Armed Forces both past and present.

Bring your flags, candles, friends and family to the Park for this patriotic evening. All attendees are encouraged to dress in red, white and blue, or wear military attire if appropriate. For more information, please contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078.

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Bowie International Festival - October 5, 2013

The *Bowie Spotlight* is published by the City of Bowie six times a year.

Comments or questions regarding the content or form of the newsletter should be directed to the Public Information Office at 301-809-3040.

The City's TTY number is 301-262-5013.

For alternative versions of the newsletter, please contact the City's Public Information Office.

City of Bowie
15901 Excalibur
Road
Bowie, MD 20716

David J. Deutsch,
City Manager
301-809-3030



Entertainers, artists, crafters, food, and children's activities will overflow at Allen Pond Park for the Annual Bowie International Festival on Saturday, **October 5, 2013** from 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. Experiences at this Festival will take you "Around the World in Just One Day."

Enjoy entertainment on two stages; food from the far reaches of Asia to right here in our own backyard; children's activities such as stories, dance, sports and games from around the world; and vendors of crafts, clothing, jewelry and many other offerings, representative of a variety of countries and cultures. The festival will include something of interest for everyone. Music from Ireland, Africa, Germany, and Latin America will fill the air. Dance groups representing the cultures of India, Ireland, Poland, Greece, China, and Native America will also perform.

Children will have the opportunity to visit many different parts of the world. They may pick up a passport at any children's activity booth or the event information booth and participate in various activities, accumulating stamps at each booth. Activities include dance, music, story time, and arts and crafts from around the world. At the end of the "trip" children receive an international prize.

The International Festival Planning Committee is seeking sponsors to help cover the cost of children's activities and entertainment at the Festival. If you would like to be a sponsor, please contact the City at the email or phone number below. Sponsors will be included in advance publicity and posted at the event. Join us for a day of celebration and exploration. For further information, check the City's webpage - www.cityofbowie.org - or contact Matt Corley, Special Events Coordinator, at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityofbowie.org.

Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

Each year, the City issues a Water Quality Report for those areas that are served by the City of Bowie Water Plant. The City and the Maryland Department of the Environment routinely monitor the drinking water to detect contaminants, according to Federal and State laws. The Report is designed to inform customers of water quality standards for the previous calendar year. The current Report covers the period of January 1 to December 31, 2012.

The current Report was recently mailed to all customers. It is also available on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org/wqr.

Beginning in 2014, all Water Quality Reports will be posted online and will not be mailed to customers. Reminders about where to obtain the Report will appear on the City water bill.

For more information or to request a copy of the Report, please call the Water Plant at 301-809-3060.

City Election - November 5, 2013

New Polling Locations for Some Neighborhoods

On February 19, 2013, the City Council voted to rebalance the polling districts for City Elections. Below is a detail of which neighborhoods will be affected by this rebalancing:

- **District 1 Neighborhoods:** Rockledge, Whitehall, Belair Greens and Old Chapel will now vote at Huntington Community Center instead of Cornerstone Assembly of God Church.
- **District 2 Neighborhoods:** Somerset and Tulip Grove (not including the homes located on the south side of the street on Tulip Grove Drive) will now vote at Christian Community Presbyterian Church instead of Kenhill Center.
- **District 4 Neighborhood:** Ridgeview Estates will now vote at Collington Station HOA Building (on corner of Jennings Mill Lane and Johnsberg Lane) instead of South Bowie Community Center.
- **District 3** did not require any changes.

Prior to the City election, registered voters will receive new Voter Registration Cards from the County with their new polling locations. In the meantime, you can go to the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org/elections and view a City map with all the polling locations. If you have any questions, contact the City Clerk at 301-809-3029 or ahernandez@cityofbowie.org.

Absentee Ballots

In accordance with Section 6-30 of the City Code, **any** qualified voter of the City may make application for an Absentee Voting Ballot for the City's upcoming election on November 5. The application may be obtained from the City Clerk's office or on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org/elections.

Important Dates to Remember

October 4 – Last day to register to vote, at City Hall or the County Board of Elections, in order to vote in the November 5 City Election.

October 4 (5 p.m.) – Last day to file for the office of Mayor, Council Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4 and two At-Large seats.

October 15 – Last day for a candidate to withdraw from running for office.

November 4 (5 p.m.) – Last day to present application for Absentee Ballot to the City Clerk.

November 5 – Election Day – Polls open 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

What's Bouncing at the City Gym

Morning Walking Program

Monday-Friday, 8:30 - 10 a.m.
The program will return with regular hours Tuesday, **September 3, 2013**. Eleven trips around the Gym equals one mile!

Women's Recreational Volleyball

Fridays, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Beginning **September 6**, make new friends, have fun and get some exercise playing volleyball.

"Lil Hoopers" Basketball Program

A new six-week session begins **Saturday, September 28** at 10 a.m. The program is designed to teach beginner basketball skills to children ages 4 - 8 years. Cost is \$65 and includes a program T-shirt, weekly snack and a closing program with award distribution.

South Bowie Boys and Girls Club

Basketball Clinics SBBGC will sponsor two free clinics for **girls** ages 8 - 14 on **September 28** and **October 19** from 12 - 3 p.m. To register, contact Carrie Bridges at basketball@sbbgc.org or call 301-332-6028.

Please note: The Bowie Health Fair is Saturday, September 21. The Bloodmobile will also be at the Gym on that date.

For more information about any of these programs, please contact the Gym at 301-809-2388.

Art Notes

Gallery News The **Artists of Passageways Studio Group** is the current Gallery exhibit. Passageways Studio is located in Riverdale, Maryland. The ten artists in the studio are showcased in this exhibit. Artists' works include paintings, photography, print making, and stained glass. The exhibit runs through October 11, 2013.

Figuratively Speaking is the next juried Art Gallery Show. The Arts Committee is looking for artwork that illustrates the beauty of the human form in portraiture and figurative artwork. Artists may submit one or two paintings, photographs, or pieces of sculpture in which the subject or subjects are people. For the first time, the Arts Committee is asking for digital image submissions from artists interested in being part of this show. Check the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org, for information on how to submit images.

Art Grants The City has arts grants available for individuals or groups that would like to offer art projects such as public performances, art workshops, or a group art opportunity for Bowie residents. Grant applications are due **Friday, September 27, 2013**, and projects must take place before June 30, 2014. The application form may be found on the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org.

For more information, contact Arts Specialist Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-5601.

Education Grants Available

The City of Bowie offers education grants that can be used to fund projects that provide learning experiences and educational enrichment to students within eligible Bowie schools. The grants are administered through the City's Education Committee. The deadline for applications for the 2013-14 grants is **Friday, October 18, 2013**. Applications may be submitted by teachers, PTAs, PTOs, and individuals. Eligible schools are listed on the City's website. For additional information, contact the City's Education Committee staff liaison Annette Esterheld at aesterheld@cityofbowie.org or 301-575-5601.

Support the Food Pantry at the International Festival

The Community Outreach Committee and the Bowie Food Pantry will again be at the International Festival on October 5th at Allen Pond Park sponsoring a fun game where children will get a stamp on their "passports" after identifying the country of origin for various food items. Please think about those in our community in need and bring one or more nonperishable items to donate, as you enjoy a fun-filled day traveling around the world, right here in Bowie!

Currently, the greatest need is for nonperishable food, although other items such as toiletries (soap, toothpaste), paper goods, and baby supplies (diapers and wipes) are also appreciated. Tax deductible contributions and grocery store gift cards are also a great way to donate, as these help to purchase needed items! Checks should be written to the Bowie Food Pantry and sent to The Bowie Food Pantry, 2614 Kenhill Drive, Bowie, MD 20715.

The pantry is now located at the Kenhill Center and is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 to 11 a.m., and from 6 to 7 p.m. on the first Thursday of each month. Collection containers for nonperishable food, paper goods and personal items are available in the lobby at the Kenhill Center, the Municipal Gym and the Senior Center.

A big THANK YOU to all who have contributed food and/or money throughout the year to support this worthy cause. For more information, contact the Pantry at BowieFoodPantry@gmail.com or 301-262-6765.

Bowie Ice Arena



Back to School Lessons will be held in September. Classes are offered for children 18 months of age through adults all levels.

Series 1 Group Lessons registration will begin September 21. Classes will start in October. If you are interested in being placed on the mailing list to receive the detailed schedule and registration information, contact the Ice Arena at **301-809-3090** or crobertson@cityofbowie.org.

For information on group or private lessons, public sessions, birthday parties, group rates, pickup hockey or pickup figure skating, visit us online at www.cityofbowie.org or call **301-809-3090**.

Halloween-On-Ice Party will be held Saturday, **October 26** from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. Wear a costume or bring a canned good for free admission. Skate rental is \$3. We will have a costume contest, music, door prizes, skating and treat bags for kids in costume!

Texas Roadhouse Meat Cutting Competition at the Ice Arena. Meat cutters from the local restaurants will compete to earn a spot at the regional competition. They will be raffling off chances to win gift baskets and the grill used to cook the steaks. Come check out the competition on Friday, September 13 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. The first 150 people can purchase a plate of food including steak, sides and a soda for \$10. All proceeds go to the Maryland Food Bank.

\$5 Off Group Lesson Registration

Bowie Ice Arena

Not valid with any other discount.
Coupon expires October 31, 2013.

Free Skate Rental

with paid public session admission

Bowie Ice Arena

Not valid with any other discount.
Coupon expires October 31, 2013.

Bowie Police Back-to-School Safety Tips

School buses use yellow flashing lights to alert motorists that they are preparing to stop to load or unload children. Red flashing lights and an extended stop sign arm signals to motorists that the bus is stopped and children are getting on or off the bus.

The area ten feet around a school bus is where children are in the most danger of being hit. Stop your car far enough from the bus to allow children the necessary space to safely enter and exit the bus.

Be alert. Children walking to or from their bus are usually very comfortable with their surroundings. This makes them more likely to take risks, ignore hazards or fail to look both ways when crossing the street.

Never pass a stopped school bus on the right. It is illegal and could have tragic consequences.

All drivers need to recognize the special safety needs of pedestrians, especially those that are children. **Generally, pedestrians have the right-of-way at all intersections.** You as a driver are obligated to exercise great care and extreme caution to avoid striking pedestrians.

Drivers should not block the crosswalk when stopped at a red light or waiting to make a turn. Do not stop with a portion of your vehicle over the crosswalk. Blocking the crosswalk forces pedestrians to go around your vehicle and puts them in a dangerous situation.

In a school zone, when warning flashers are blinking, you must stop to yield the right-of-way to a pedestrian crossing the roadway within a marked crosswalk or at an intersection with no marked crosswalk. Always stop when directed to do so by a school patrol sign, patrol officer or crossing guard.

Children are the least predictable pedestrians and the most difficult to see. Take extra care to look out for children not only in school zones, but also in residential areas, playgrounds and parks. Don't honk your horn, rev your engine or do anything to rush or scare a pedestrian.

Code Corner

Building Permit Fees effective July 1, 2013

The general cost of a City of Bowie building and sign permit fee will remain the same: \$3 per \$1,000 estimated construction costs; however, the minimum permit fee will be \$25. If the estimated cost of construction is below \$8,500, the permit fee is \$25. If the estimated cost of construction is \$8,500 or above, the City permit fee is \$3 per \$1,000 construction cost. Other fees include: Reapplication/Revision fee - \$25; Investigation fee - \$25; and Raze Permit fee - \$50.

Time to Inspect Your Property

The fall and holiday seasons are approaching. Family and friends will be visiting and you want to make a great impression on them. Now is an excellent time to inspect your property. The weather is generally pleasant and if there are needed repairs, they can be completed before holiday visitors arrive. While you conduct the survey, inspect for:

- Peeling, flaking exterior paint.
- Mold, dirt and mildew on the exterior walls.
- Missing house numbers.
- Rusting vent pipes or other rusted objects.
- Broken garage door panels or boards.
- Tree and shrubs that need to be trimmed.
- Toys, containers, construction material, spare tires, junk and other items stored outdoors.

Leaves Will Soon Be Falling

Did you know raking and removing leaves can prevent a common problem next spring? Mosquitoes lay their eggs in dry areas or containers which then hatch once the areas fill with water. These areas include gutters, corrugated pipe used to redirect water, holes or knots in trees, and leaves. Cleaning your gutters and raking your leaves can help prevent these areas from collecting water and in turn will reduce the mosquito population next spring.

To Spay, Neuter or Not?

When spaying or neutering is done early, between 8 weeks and 6 months of age, it can provide long lasting health benefits by reducing your pet's chance of developing cancer and life-threatening infections that affect reproductive organs, by up to 90%. It can reduce your pet's desire to roam away from home in search of a mate. Keeping your pet safely at home lowers their risk of exposure to people or other animals that may cause injury and illness. It can help prevent annoying behaviors such as territorial marking (urination), dominance and aggression issues. It can lower overall veterinary costs and licensing fees. Prince George's County's pet licensing fee is \$25; it is \$5 for spayed/neutered pets.

There are several things to consider if you are hesitant to spay or neuter your pet. Each year approximately 2.7 million adoptable dogs and cats are euthanized in the United States*. These are puppies and kittens, young and old, purebreds and mixed-breeds, strays, and owned animals that have been left at the shelter when they're no longer wanted or impounded due to cruelty and neglect. These surgical procedures are safe and there is little risk of complication. Most animals recover quickly and behave normally within hours or by the next day. There is no alteration in your pet's personality. Your pet will not become fat. Just as in humans, it is genetics, diet, exercise, or a lack thereof, that causes weight gain and diminished activity. Low-cost spay/neuter options are available. For more information, please contact Bowie Animal Control at 301-809-3002 or lransom@cityofbowie.org or visit our website at: www.cityofbowie.org.

*Figure compiled from the 2011-2012 APPA National Pet Owners Survey, and estimated by The Humane Society of the United States using statistics provided by The National Council on Pet Population Study and Policy.

Bowie Budget in Brief

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

Activity	Highlights of Adopted Budget
Revenues and Other Changes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • City real property tax rate remains unchanged at \$0.40 per \$100 of assessed value and business personal property tax rate remains unchanged at \$1.00 per \$100 of assessed value. • County tax rate increased by \$.011 due to the tax differential program. • State Highway User Revenue increased by \$1,044,700. • Federal Community Development Block Grant decreased by \$9,900.
Public Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued support for Bowie Volunteer Fire Department (\$131,800), and \$35,100 for future replacement of fire apparatus. • Construction of a new Animal Shelter Facility with funds donated by the Bowie CLAW organization (\$100,000). • New Code Compliance Officer II position (\$60,979) and a part time Police Personnel Associate (\$11,849).
General Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Renewable Energy Technologies – Feasibility study to research biodiesel and gasification systems (\$50,000). • New Network Specialist position (\$71,699).
Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roof and HVAC replacement (\$273,300) at Senior Center.
Recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace the refrigeration system and dashboards at the Ice Arena (\$762,600). • Roof repair and drapery installation in Sunroom and Parlor (\$137,200) at the Belair Mansion. • Replace Boiler/Chiller unit (\$80,000) at Gymnasium. • Improvements to Allen Pond Park include replacing lights at basketball courts and skate park and replacing bleachers at Huston and Andy Brown fields (\$109,000).
Planning and Economic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$50,000 in continued support for business incubator. • Complete Adnell Woods and Ashleigh annexations. • Complete design plans for phase I of the Bowie Heritage Trail system. • New Sustainability Planner position (\$60,979).
Public Works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$3,045,000 for street resurfacing program. • Enhancements to Public Stormwater Management Facilities (\$96,000). • Installation of high efficiency lighting in vehicle storage bays and salt building (\$15,400). • Road widening at Kenhill Drive and Route 197 (\$58,700).
Water and Sewer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water rate increased \$.34 and sewer rate increased \$.49 per thousand gallons. • Improvements to the Water and Wastewater Treatment Plants totaling \$1,711,300 are funded by water and sewer revenues and State loans. • New Equipment Operator I and Municipal Services Worker positions, shared equally between the Water and Sewer Divisions (\$80,298).

Bowie Budget in Brief

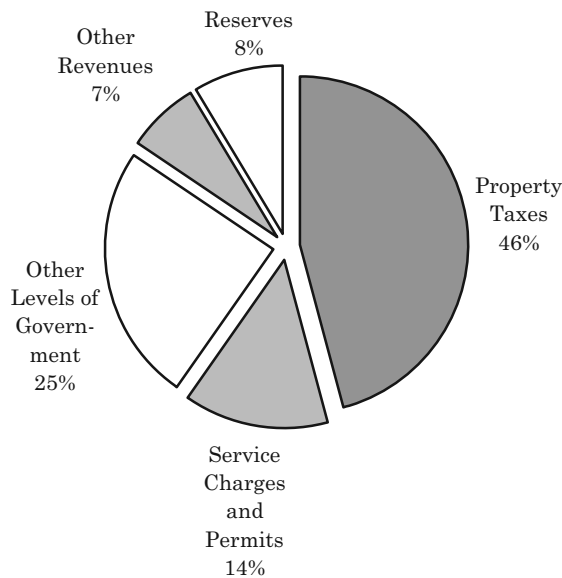
July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

The Big Picture

For the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014, City Council authorized \$59,440,100 in total spending from all funds. This number includes some amounts that are simply transferred from one fund to another. Governments use fund accounting to keep different types of revenue and expenditures separate from each other.

Excluding transfers, the total is \$56,047,300 compared to last year's total of \$51,255,900. The \$4.791 million increase is primarily due to the higher cost of capital improvement projects scheduled for FY 2014 as compared to the previous year.

Where the Dollars Come From



Property Taxes include both real property tax and business personal property tax. City Council sets the tax rates each year as part of the budget process, while the State Department of Assessments and Taxation determines the value of property to be taxed. This year's real property tax rate remained at \$.40 per \$100 of

assessed value and the business personal property tax rate remained at \$1.00 per \$100 of assessed value.

The majority of revenue from **Other Levels of Government** consists of the City's share of state income and motor vehicle taxes. It also includes state grants for youth services and police protection, federal grants for urban development, County rebate of part of the landfill fees paid by the City, and many other smaller amounts. It also includes capital grants such as the State Program Open Space allocation.

Service Charges and Permits include such items as building permits, park use fees, and Ice Arena revenues. However, the majority of this revenue refers to water and sewer charges. These charges are paid only by customers of the City of Bowie Water and Sewer System and are used only for costs of operating and maintaining that system. This year's water rates increased from \$3.41 to \$3.75 per thousand gallons, and the sewer surcharge increased from \$4.88 to \$5.37 per thousand gallons.

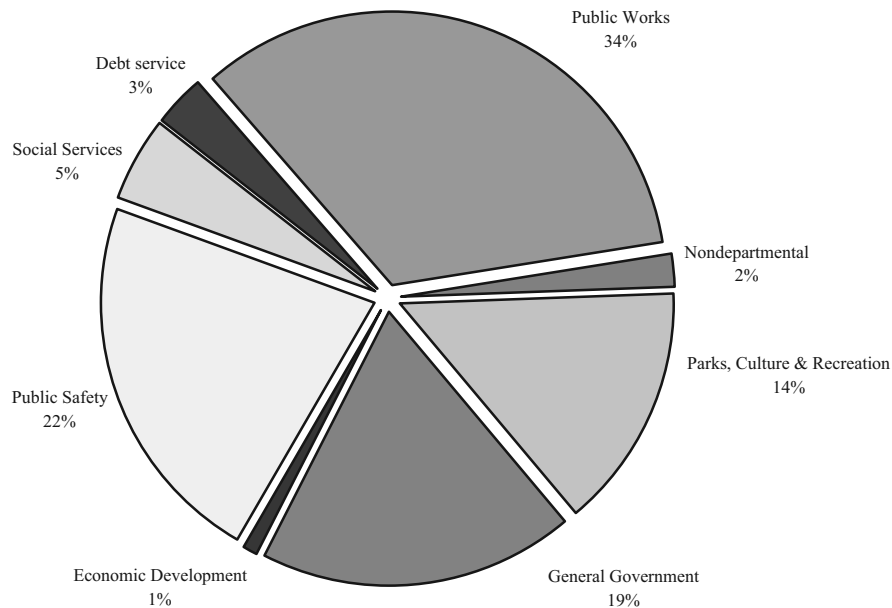
Other Revenues include interest earnings, rents, donations, sales of recyclable materials, cable television franchise fees, and other miscellaneous items not classified elsewhere.

Reserves being used to provide funding for the current budget have accumulated over all years of the City's existence, when revenues have exceeded expenditures. In any year, a surplus can occur from unexpected windfall revenues; from a level of expenditures less than budgeted, such as when projects are canceled or delayed; or from funds that have been reserved for a special purpose.

Bowie Budget in Brief

July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

Where the Dollars are Spent



General Government includes those functions that relate to the overall business of government: City Council, City Clerk, elections, legal services, public information, planning, etc. It includes administrative functions such as human resources, finance, information technology, maintenance and security of public buildings and grounds.

Economic Development involves efforts to improve the City's business climate. **Public Safety** includes police services, municipal code compliance, animal control, and support for the Bowie Volunteer Fire Department. **Social Services** include both the Senior Center and the Youth Services Bureau.

Public Works includes trash collection and disposal, street maintenance and snow removal, storm water control and maintenance of vehicles and mobile equipment for all City departments. It also includes the Water and Wastewater

Plants, which serve users of the City of Bowie Water and Sewer System, and are funded only by water and sewer service charges.

Parks, Culture and Recreation includes the City's parks, ball fields and recreational buildings such as the Ice Arena, Bowie Playhouse, and Gymnasium. It also includes coordination of City celebrations and special events, planning and scheduling of recreational offerings, restoration of historic buildings, operation of all City museums, as well as a contribution to support operations at the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts.

The term "**Nondepartmental**" refers to those annual costs that benefit all other City functions. Such items as liability and property insurance and allowances for unexpected contingencies are budgeted under this description, rather than being allocated among the operating departments.

Bowie Budget in Brief

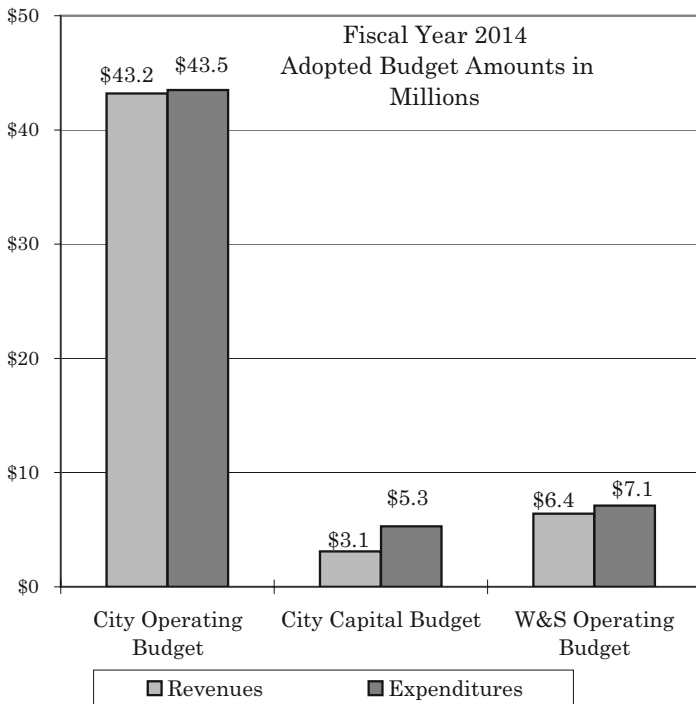
July 1, 2013 - June 30, 2014

The Budget Process

During the period of January through mid-April 2013, the City Manager and staff prepared the FY2014 Proposed Budget, taking into account various master plans, Council policy statements, long-term studies, user group requests, volunteer committee recommendations, and staff observations in the field.

Council held five budget worksessions and two public hearings during April and May. The FY2014 Adopted Budget Ordinance and the companion Capital Improvements Program Resolution were passed on May 20, 2013. The Budget is effective for the period July 1, 2013 through June 30, 2014.

Operating Budget vs. Capital Budget



Note: Differences between expenditures and revenues are to be funded using reserves accumulated in prior years.

The Operating Budget covers day-to-day delivery of City services. It provides for the hours worked by City employees, contract services by non-employees, supplies, minor equipment and other operating costs. In the graph, it also includes the cost of vehicles, other operating equipment and annual debt service requirements.

The Capital Budget is for the improvement, construction or purchase of major City assets such as buildings, parks, roads or trails. The City uses a six-year Capital Improvements Program (CIP) to prioritize and plan for these major projects. The current year's portion of the CIP amounts to \$5,352,800.

Operating Budget Detail

Staffing - The approved budget provides for 361.9 full-time equivalent (FTEs) positions. One FTE is equal to one or more employees working a total of 2,080 hours (or 1,950 hours, depending on the job classification) The work hours are budgeted in the General Fund (329.2 FTEs) or the Water and Sewer Fund (32.7 FTEs).

Types of Expenditures - The General Fund is the largest and most important fund, because it accounts for the delivery of basic municipal services and receives all general-purpose City revenues. General Fund budget expenditures are summarized here by object of expenditure.

Object	Amount	Percent
Salaries & Benefits	\$24,279,500	56%
Contractual Services	10,844,800	25%
Commodities	2,738,100	6%
Other Charges	1,119,700	3%
Capital Outlay	176,000	0%
Debt Service	1,288,600	3%
Transfers	<u>3,058,500</u>	<u>7%</u>
Total	\$43,505,200	100%

Budget Document

The City's detailed Budget is available online at the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org.

Seasonal Blues in the Green World

Many of our residents and my other neighbors and acquaintances have complained about trees looking sick and dropping their leaves over the weeks of summer. One of my neighbors was sure that their trees needed more water. Unfortunately, quite to the contrary, the trees have had an abundance of water this spring and summer. It is this abundance of water coupled with the period of high heat and humidity that provides the perfect environment for plant diseases.

While trees, shrubs, flowers and turf grasses can be subject to other types of disease such as bacterial and viral diseases, the primary disease problems are caused by fungi. Fungus diseases, most often, love high heat and humidity which helps them to thrive and attack plant material. Symptoms of these diseases can vary widely from leaves dropping, discoloring, wilting and/or plant death. Note that these symptoms resemble the kind of visual effects one might expect from drought. The plant is suffering in that its vascular system cannot transport water and nutrition throughout the plant. While some plant diseases can be diagnosed by purely visual inspection, many have to be confirmed by way of lab testing. Furthermore, once diagnosed, treatment for these diseases can be costly and ongoing. More often than not, the effects of plant disease result in a temporary setback for the plant for that season, and the plant will recover when either conditions improve or with the start of the next growing season. In the big picture, being aware and being patient are most important for the homeowner and gardener. Hang in there, and things will likely get better.

And as always, I am available to help and advise along the way. Keep in mind that the University of Maryland Extension Service agents are available throughout the counties and state to advise, visit and supply information as needed. And no worries...the cooler, beautiful Maryland fall weather is coming soon. Keeping it green, Rick Kellner, Community Forester

Beautification Awards

It's official! All of this year's entered yards have been judged, scores have been tallied, and the winners are...

Well, you'll just have to attend the City's Beautification Awards ceremony on **Thursday, September 26, 2013** at City Hall where the results will be revealed! A slide presentation and refreshments will begin at 7 p.m. and the awards presentation will begin at 7:30 p.m.

The City would like to thank all those who beautified their yards this year and chose to enter this wonderful City-wide program. For more information, contact Matt Corley at 301-809-3078 or mcorley@cityof-bowie.org.

Bowie Farmers' Market

The Bowie Farmers' Market is entering the final months of operation for the season. Patrons will find various types of fresh fruits and vegetables, and breads and baked goods. As fall approaches, pick up your seasonal favorites before the market closes. Stock up on fresh jams and jellies, herbs, kettle corn and candies.

The Farmers' Market is open **Sundays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.**, through **October 27, 2013**. The Market operates in the parking lot of the Bowie Center for the Performing Arts at Bowie High School, 15200 Annapolis Road. For more information, please contact Matt Corley at mcorley@cityofbowie.org or 301-809-3078.

Upcoming Special Events

September 15 "Farm Days"

Farm animal petting zoo, 9:30 - 11 a.m.

October 27 "Octoberfest"

Free scarecrow making (participants supply a long-sleeved shirt and trousers). Free pumpkin painting (pumpkins available for purchase at market). Activities start at 10 a.m.



Bowie Youth & Family Services

Counseling is offered for families with school-age children living in the home. Groups are offered on a variety of topics, including groups for those who want guidance with parenting skills, social skills for young children, or parenting children with ADHD. Bowie Youth & Family Services (BYFS) staff is composed of master and doctoral level clinicians with extensive training in family counseling plus professionals in the field of community outreach and program development. Families are encouraged to call 301-809-3033 for more information or to make an appointment. An initial intake will be done either by phone or in person.

Residents, do you need some help with household or yard chores, babysitting, shopping, computer work or tutoring? Hire one of the **Teen Job Bank** teens (ages 13-17). The particulars of the job and the fees paid are determined by you and the teen. Please fill in a Teen Job Bank Work Request Form for Residents found on the City's website at www.cityofbowie.org. or call BYFS at 301-809-3033.

Upcoming Groups:

Active Parenting – A popular group for parents that focuses on learning practical skills to help develop cooperation and responsibility in your child.

ADHD Education – Adults learn about ADHD/ADD and new ways to help their child. Children, ages 8 - 11 focus on improving social skills. These two groups run simultaneously.

Girls Count! – Sharing the pressures of being female in today's complex society, teen girls support each other as they participate in activities that are fun and meaningful.

Women Caring for Others and Themselves – An experiential group for Moms who want to gather and share their experience and learn ways for coping and healing of their inner selves.

For more information, call 301-809-3033 or check out the City's website, www.cityofbowie.org.

Bowie Playhouse Presents



TWENTIETH CENTURY -- 8/30 - 9/15

Larger than life theater producer Oscar Jaffe finds that the movie star he promoted for Broadway stardom years earlier is on board the same train he is. He tries to lure her away from Hollywood and her new love interest to save his floundering career. Other passengers aboard the train provide multiple comic subplots for a screwball comedy set in the 1930s. Produced by Prince George's Little Theatre.

Performances are at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and matinees are at 2 p.m. on Sundays.

For tickets, visit www.pglt.org or call 301-937-7458.

LITTLE SHOP OF HORRORS -- 9/27 - 10/27

A down and out skid row floral assistant becomes an overnight sensation when he discovers an exotic plant with a mysterious craving for fresh blood. Soon, "Audrey II" grows into an ill-tempered, R&B-singing carnivore who offers him fame and fortune in exchange for feeding its growing appetite, finally revealing itself to be an alien creature, poised for global domination! This family favorite is a perfect part of your Halloween preparations and celebrations. Produced by 2nd Star Productions. Performances are

at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays and matinees are at 3 p.m. on Sundays. For tickets

visit www.2ndstarproductions.com or call 301-832-4819.



All performances are on weekends at the Bowie Playhouse, located in Whitemarsh Park, 16500 Whitemarsh Park Drive. For ticket sales and information about the theater groups, please contact the theater companies directly. All companies offer online ticketing.

Become a Weed Warrior and Save Trees at Whitemarsh Park

It was shortly before noon on a humid July Saturday when nine dedicated Bowie residents wrapped up the first official Weed Warrior event hosted by the City's Green Team. They began work at 8:30 a.m. and cleared about 10 trees that were being strangled of invasive English ivy vines in Whitemarsh Park near the historic house. Weed Warriors are volunteers who meet once a month to slowly take back the trees along the driveway near the Bowie Playhouse from the onslaught of English ivy.

As a native of Great Britain and western Europe, English ivy is aptly named. It was reportedly introduced to America in the early 1700s by European colonists. Because it is not native here, it has no natural predators and can spread practically unchecked. In most of the U.S., it is still sold at retail stores and nurseries and planted for its ability to grow in poor soils and in areas that are not conducive to grass or other ground covers. Sales of English ivy continue despite common knowledge of its propensity to overtake trees, shrubs, ground cover and even buildings!

In March 2013, the City received a report from a consultant outlining the extent of invasive vegetation at Whitemarsh and Tanglewood Parks and six afforestation sites around the City. There were 16 different invasive plants identified in these areas, typically found along the edges of the woods but also in some interior sections of the parks. The City will review the report and determine what course of action is needed based on the consultant's recommendations. In the meantime, the Green Team will continue with its Weed Warrior events.

To help with the Weed Warrior work days at Whitemarsh Park, you must register with the City's Watershed Manager Tiffany Wright at 301-809-3043 or twright@cityofbowie.org. The next scheduled date is **Sunday, September 15, 2013** from 2 - 4:30 p.m. More work days will be added, so keep an eye on the Weed Warrior webpage, www.cityofbowie.org/WeedWarriors.

Climate Change in Bowie

Have you ever thought about how our community is affected by climate change? Increased storm intensity, flooding and periods of drought are all connected to the warming of our planet. The City's Green Team is examining this issue and what likely measures could be taken by the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and our carbon footprint.

The Green Team will be sponsoring a Climate Change Workshop this fall at the Kenhill Center. Watch the City website, www.cityofbowie.org, for more details.

BGE Quick Home Energy Checkup

Bowie residents should take advantage of this program because every BGE customer contributes a small monthly charge to fund it through the EmPOWER Maryland Act of 2008.

An energy expert will visit your home and recommend ways to improve energy efficiency. These experts may also install faucet aerators, low-flow showerheads, compact fluorescent light bulbs or pipe insulation, if deemed necessary, at no additional cost.

Visit www.BGESmartEnergy.com to schedule an appointment today!



News of the City Museums



Mark Your Calendar

Fun and Games

Sunday, September 1, 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Young visitors can cool off and enjoy tabletop games from the past...draughts (aka checkers), the game of goose, nine pins, and make a silhouette picture to take home. Free.

Finding Your 1812 Ancestors - Second Tuesday Lecture Series
Tuesday, September 10, 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Genealogist Rebecca Koford will discuss "Preserve the Pensions: The War of 1812" as part of the commemoration of the War of 1812 in our County. Free.

Civil War on the Homefront

Saturday, September 14, 12 - 4 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Join the members of the Atlantic Guard Soldiers Aid Society at their annual program interpreting Civil War civilian lives at Belair Mansion. Free.

Kids Kaboose

Tuesday, September 17 and October 15, 10:30 a.m. at Bowie Railroad Museum. Railroad fun and games for ages 1-10. Free.

HomeSchool Day at the Stable

Monday, September 23, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at Belair Stable. Home-schoolers ages 4-12 are invited to discover Bowie's horse history! Free. No reservations required.

An 18th Century Village on the Gunpowder River - Second Tuesday Lecture Series

Tuesday, October 8, 7:30 p.m. at Belair Mansion. Joan Scovill, from the Friends of Jerusalem Mill, will discuss Jerusalem Mill Village, a living history site in Baltimore County centered around a reconstructed 18th century mill. Free.

Looking ahead: On Monday, **November 4**, Belair Mansion will host History Lecture Lunch Day, a daylong program on 18th century foodways. Call the museum and watch the City's website for details!

For information on these, or any museum program, contact 301-809-3089 or museumevents@cityofbowie.org.

Hours of Operation

Belair Mansion,
Tuesdays through
Sundays, 12 - 4 p.m.,
12207 Tulip Grove Drive.
Free.

Belair Stable Museum,
Tuesdays through
Sundays, 12 - 4 p.m., 2835
Belair Drive. Free.

**Old Town Bowie
Welcome Center,**
Tuesdays - Sundays,
10 a.m. - 4 p.m., 8606
Chestnut Avenue, 301-
575-2488. Free.

**Bowie Railroad
Museum,** Tuesdays
through Sundays, 10 a.m.
- 4 p.m., 8614 Chestnut
Avenue. Free.

*To schedule a group
tour of any of these City
Museums, or for more
information, please
call 301-809-3089.*

**Radio and Television
Museum,** Fridays
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.,
Saturdays and Sundays
1 - 5 p.m., 2608
Mitchellville Road. Free.
*To contact this Museum,
call 301-390-1020.*

**The Prince George's
Genealogical Library,**
Wednesdays 10 a.m. -
7 p.m. (first Wednesday of
the month 10 a.m. -
1 p.m.), Tulip Grove
Drive. Free. *For infor-
mation, call 301-262-2063
during open hours.*

Senior Services

Overview

The Bowie Senior Center provides a wide variety of educational and recreational programs and services that include information and assistance, transportation, and a nutrition program for the active adult 55 years and older.

Fitness Room Refresher

**Tuesday,
September 10,
5:30 p.m.**

Do you use the fitness room at the Senior Center? If so, starting September and every other month, Wellness Coordinator Mark Shields will conduct evening re-orientations. Call to reserve your spot.

Flu and Pneumonia

Vaccines

**Friday, September 27
9 a.m. - 12 p.m.**

Get your flu and pneumonia vaccines right here at the Center! This program is in partnership with the MedStar Health Visiting Nurse Association.

Active Adult 55+
Active Adult 55+

Bowie Senior Center Trips

The Senior Center offers four or five trips each month. Choose from local luncheons, dinner theaters, museums, casino play, shopping excursions and historic sites! There's something for everyone, but you must register in person at the Center. Some upcoming trips include: Pentagon Memorial and American History Museum on September 10, and "Broadway, Now and Forever" at the American Music Theater in Pennsylvania on October 9.

SAGE - Continuing Education Class Registration

The Senior Center partners with Prince George's Community College SAGE (Seasoned Adults Growing Educationally) program to offer over 65 classes each week at our Center. Registration occurs three times a year for each 14-week semester. The Fall semester begins the week of September 30. Students may choose classes in art, finance, health and fitness, history and social studies, humanities, languages, music, and much more! Registration information is available at the Senior Center.

Treat Yourself to Halloween Fun

Thursday, October 31, 12:15 - 1:45 p.m.

Treats for all, but no tricks at all at the Senior Center's Halloween Party! D.J. Johnny will be on hand to present music for dancing or just listening. Light refreshments will be served. The fee is \$5 for Bowie residents and \$6 for nonresidents. Sign up at the front desk by Thursday, October 24 to reserve your spot at the party.

Bowie Senior Center, 14900 Health Center Drive

301-809-2300, www.cityofbowie.org/seniorcenter

Hours of operation are Monday, Wednesday and Friday,
8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.;
Tuesday and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.;
and Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**CITY OF BOWIE
15901 EXCALIBUR ROAD
BOWIE, MARYLAND 20716**

CITY COUNCIL

**MAYOR G. FREDERICK ROBINSON
MAYOR PRO TEM DIANE M. POLANGIN
DENNIS BRADY
HENRI GARDNER
JAMES L. MARCOS
ISAAC TROUTH
TODD M. TURNER**

Be Prepared

In most years there's at least one, and often several, severe weather events that impact our region. Sometimes dangerous, and always inconvenient, these incidents have a way of causing stress and disrupting everyday life.

By taking the basic preparedness steps listed below, you may be able to lessen your worries and the impact of that next wind event or derecho or tornado or whatever is headed our way!

- Create an emergency contact list. Give every family member a copy.
- Have basic emergency supplies on hand including flashlights, batteries, radio, water, ready-to-eat food and a first aid kit. See a complete list at ready.gov.
- Consider the special needs of pets, and disabled or elderly family members.
- Decide where you will meet your family if you have to leave your home or can't go home.
- Back up your computer regularly.
- Scan important documents and save to a disk or flash drive. Keep in safe-deposit box or send to a friend or family member for safekeeping.
- Review your homeowner's insurance policy. Understand what's covered and what your deductible is. Do you have sewer backup protection?
- Have a "Go Bag" of essentials. What would you grab if you had five minutes to leave your home?
- Keep informed before, during and after an emergency event. Monitor local news, follow us on Facebook and Twitter, and receive messages from Alert Bowie. You can also call City Hall or visit our website for updates.

Follow links on our website, www.cityofbowie.org, to Facebook, Twitter and Alert Bowie or register for alerts at <http://alert.cityofbowie.org>.
